

Michael William Balfe

(1807-1870)

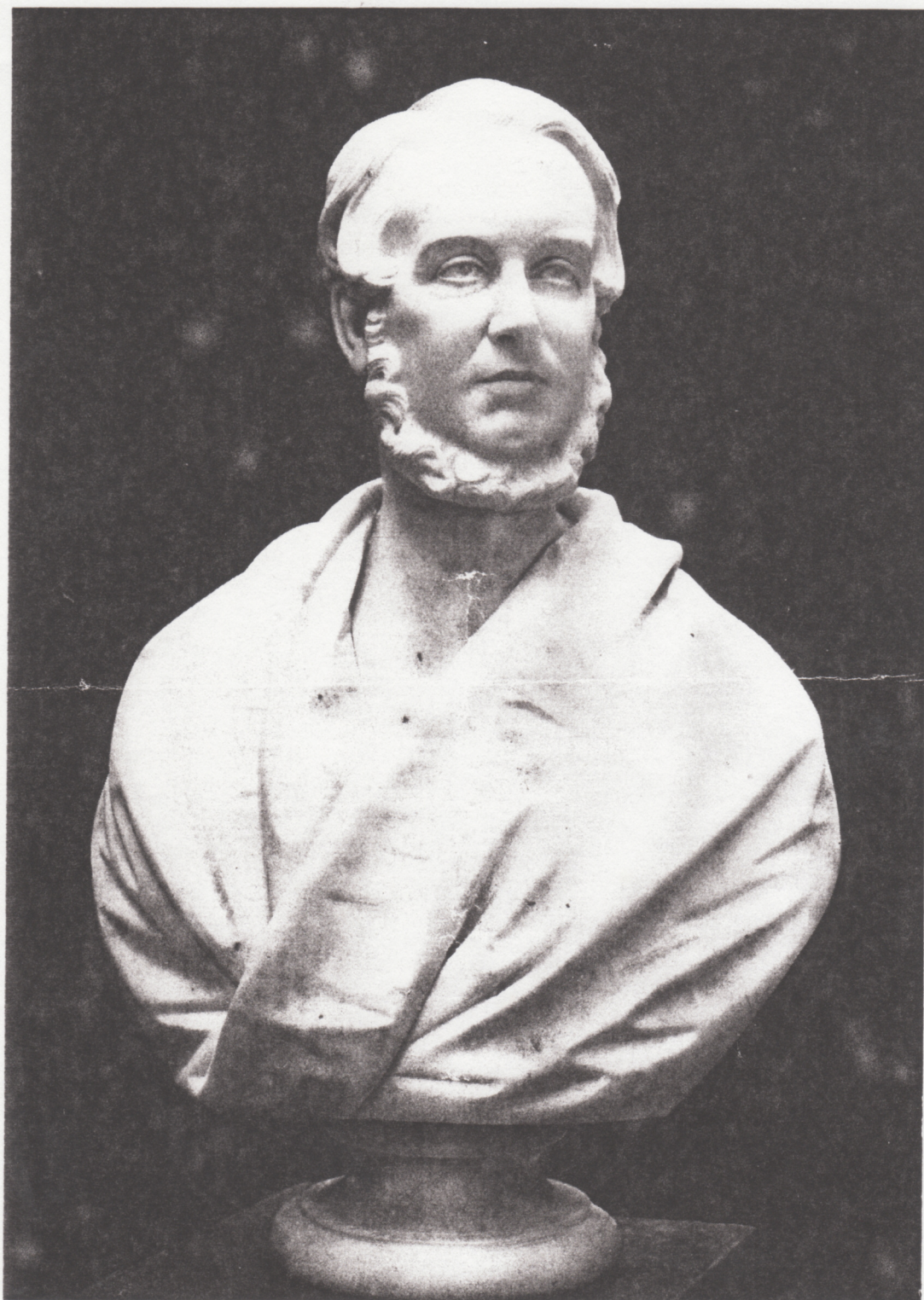
The
BOHEMIAN GIRL

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
of the
Centenary Performance

DRURY
LANE
1843

November, 27th

GAIETY
DUBLIN
1943



BUST OF BALFE by FARRELL

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Gaiety



JOSEPH FLOOD



PATRICIA BLACK



PROGRAMME

<i>Count Arnheim</i>	..	SEAN MOONEY
<i>Thaddeus</i>	..	JAMES JOHNSTON
<i>Florestein</i>	..	JOSEPH FLOOD
<i>Devilshoof</i>	..	J. C. BROWNER
<i>Captain of the Guard</i>	..	LUKE W. KENNEDY
<i>Peasant Girl</i>	..	PAULINE NOLAN
<i>Peasant</i>	..	JAMES BRITTAIN
<i>Arline</i>	..	RITA LYNCH
<i>Buda</i>	..	UNA BODIE
<i>Queen of the Gypsies</i>	..	PATRICIA BLACK

Conductor .. COMMDT. J. M. DOYLE

Ballet : Soloists—

MARY POSWOLSKY and GERALD GAVRON

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Company :

Messrs. R. Abell, M. Barry, M. Bassett, N. Buckley, J. Byrom, L. Cameron, K. Condrion, C. Cooke, R. Cullen, E. Doyle, K. Doyle, M. Doyle, F. Draper, A. Fagan, K. FitzGerald, M. Folan, A. Frayne, E. Heffernan, R. Hunt, E. Jennings, M. M. Keogh, E. Manning, C. McAsey, K. McDonald, A. Moffatt, R. Murphy, M. Murray, E. Newman, K. O'Brien, K. O'Byrne, A. Ely O'Carroll, M. O'Malley, C. Pleimeann, Power, Maura Reid, V. Rock, M. Smith, K. Vaughan, E. Waldron, A. Walsh, P. Young.

Messrs. J. Bishop, J. G. Black, W. Brennan, H. Brittain, C. Byrom, R. J. Carey, J. Carroll, S. Casey, S. Fitzpatrick, A. Doherty, S. Doherty, B. Ennis, A. J. Hackett, P. Hogan, R. J. Jackson, Gerrard Jones, Gwilym Jones, J. Larkin, P. Martin, M. McGuigan, S. McGuinness, G. Millar, C. Moran, W. Moran, J. Murray, L. O'Connor, W. O'Kelly, I. Porter, H. Sheridan, A. E. Timlin, W. Tobin, F. Traynor, D. Walsh.

THE GAIETY THEATRE opened on the 27th, 1871. By a singular coincidence its opening performance on the 27th, which is not only the 72nd anniversary of the theatre, but is also the first performance of *The Bohemian* at the Gaiety Theatre, which lies but a few paces from its birthplace, should have the honour of being the last performance of this, his best-known work.

Truly November 27th is an

Theatre

PROGRAMME

ACT I

THE CHATEAU AND GROUNDS OF COUNT ARNHEIM, ON THE DANUBE, PRESBURG

ACT 2

Scene 1 .. A GIPSY ENCAMPMENT NEAR PRESBURG

Scene 2 .. A STREET NEAR PRESBURG

Scene 3 .. A GRAND FAIR IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE AT PRESBURG.

Scene 4 .. THE HALL OF JUSTICE

ACT 3

RECEPTION ROOM IN THE CASTLE OF COUNT ARNHEIM

Corps de Ballet :

Peggy Radford, Teresa Gallagher, Averil Grancy, Katherine Dardis, Kathleen Murtagh, Myrtle Lambkin (by permission of Abbey School of Dancing, Muriel Kelly), Patricia O'Hagan, Eileen Kane, Desmond Domican, Tony Bailey (by permission of Sarah Payne).

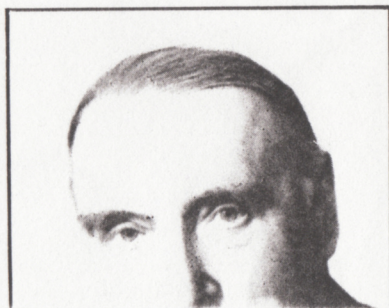
President Dublin Grand Opera Society	DR. J. F. LAR HET
Chairman	COMMDT. W. O'K'LLY
Musical Director	COMMDT. J. M. DOYLE
Leader of Orchestra	TERRY O'CONNOR
Producer	SYDNEY RUSSELL
Choreography arranged by	MARY POSWICK SKY
Chorus Mistress	JULIA GRAY
Hon. Secretary	MR. A. E. TIMLIN, 2 HOLLYBROOK PARK, CLONTARF
Hon. Treasurer	MR. R. J. CAREY, 18 GARVILLE AVENUE, RATHGAR
Publicity	MR. BOB PELLISIER
Manager	HAMLIN BENSON
Stage Manager	T. DALY
Stage Electrician	H. MORRISON
	For Gaiety Theatre



JAMES JOHNSTON



RITA LYNCH



and its doors on November
 ence, *The Bohemian Girl* had
 same date. On this occasion,
 anniversary of the opening
 hundredth anniversary of the
ian Girl, it is fitting that the
 a stone's throw from Balfe's
 our of presenting a Centenary
 own and most popular opera.

historic date for the Gaiety

Life of Balfe

MICHAEL WILLIAM BALFE was born in Dublin, on May 15th, 1808. The son of a dancing master, he was, from the first, associated with music by his father's profession. He was a "child prodigy," composing a polacca for a band at the age of seven, and giving a violin concert at the age of nine.

He went to London in 1825 to learn the violin under C. E. Horne, and obtained a post as violinist in the orchestra of Drury Lane Theatre—sometimes indeed, leading the orchestra. Count Mazzara took him to Italy, which he soon quitted for Paris, where he met Rossini, who offered him an engagement with the Italian Opera, as a baritone. After studying under Maestro Bordogni, Balfe made a successful debut in Paris as Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* in 1827. He was now successfully launched on a musical career, and during an engagement at Palermo he composed his first opera, *I Rivali di se Stessi*, and also met and married a Hungarian Singer, Lina Rosa.

The year 1835 saw the production of his first English opera, *The Seige of Rochelle*, to be followed by *The Maid of Artois*, containing the song "The Light of other days," which Malibran made famous. (This song is inserted into this present production of *The Bohemian Girl*).

Balfe worked hard, singing, composing and making a disastrous venture of managing the Lyceum Theatre. He went to Paris again, produced two new works, and then returned to London for the production of his new opera, *The Bohemian Girl*, at Drury Lane, on November 27th, 1843. This short version was later expanded to its present form of five acts, and was first produced as we know it in Paris in 1869.

Balfe died at his country home, Rowney Abbey, in 1870. In all he wrote thirty-one

operas, as well as a cantata, *Mazeppa*, and numerous ballads and other pieces. His daughter, Victoire, was also a noted singer, well-known in society, she married first Sir John Crampton and then, after his death, the Duc de Frias.



Other Operas written by BALFE include: *Geraldine*, *The Castle of Aymon*, *The Maid of Honour*, *Pittore e Duca*, *Satomella*, *Beanca*, *The Puritan's Daughter*, *The Armourer of Nantes*, *Blanche de Nevers*, *The Knight of the Leopard (Il Talismano)*, *The Sleeping Queen*.



The house in Balfe Street, Dublin, where Michael Balfe, composer of "The Bohemian Girl" was born. (Formerly called Pitt Street).

— Photograph reproduced by courtesy of The Irish Times.